

ahead. The President has selected a man who is well qualified.

I remain concerned about how we handle the upcoming debates about the budget, taxes and healthcare. We need to get to work. But we need to work together, in a bipartisan fashion, to address these important issues. I am committed to working with the administration to try to find common ground. The new Secretary shares this commitment. I look forward to working with him.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of John Snow, a proven leader with a reputation of a winner, and President Bush's nominee for U.S. Treasury Secretary.

John Snow is someone I know well and a proud resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In nominating John Snow, President Bush has brilliantly chosen the best person in America for the vital position of Secretary of the Treasury. There are few Americans with the knowledge of diverse U.S. and international economies—manufacturing, mining, automobile, electric, agriculture—trade, transportation modes—rail, ports, barges—and hands-on track record of creating jobs that John has developed over the last three decades. John Snow is a man of positive action and the right person to help President Bush create greater job opportunities for all Americans. He will be a respected and articulate leader for the principles of trusting people and free enterprise to do what they do best—create new and better jobs.

His prior service in Federal Government helps him as well. John Snow understands how government operates and how government can help or hinder job growth.

I have known John and Carolyn Snow for many years, and have relied on John's insight, experience and wisdom often over those years. While I served as Governor of Virginia, John gave extensively of his time to help us shape a plan that successfully revived Virginia's economy and resulted in the creation of a record number of new jobs. He continues to be a trusted adviser on economic and transportation issues.

When John came to Richmond in the early 1980s, the city was still suffering the lingering consequences of the past, and a very contentious period in the 1970s. Richmond had just elected its first African-American mayor. During this time, John stepped forward to help bridge the gap between the past and the future. He was a founding member of Richmond Renaissance, an organization dedicated to promoting racial equality in downtown Richmond. He was appointed by the new mayor to the city of Richmond school board. He became a member of the board of Virginia Union, a historically black college in Richmond.

He is a Renaissance man—educated in law and economics at the University of Virginia, government and business, and a professor. A Renaissance man

who can convincingly and reasonably articulate the need for positive action.

John Snow has been successful in business because he knows that a growing economy is one that enables every working man and woman to have an opportunity to benefit from their hard work, their creativity and their ingenuity.

With his confirmation, all of America will soon come to trust and rely on John Snow's considerable knowledge and experience as I and so many grateful Virginians have over the years.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 4, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 21, the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the U.S. Circuit Court for the DC Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR JUSTICES AND JUDGES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 2, H.R. 16.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 16) to authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2003.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR JUSTICES AND JUDGES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 101, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 101) to authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2003.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to address the serious matter of pay inequity in the Federal judiciary.

As things stand now, nearly every Federal employee will receive a cost of living adjustment during 2003—every employee, that is, except Federal judges. This is because of a legislative prescription that requires Congress to authorize raises in the salaries of Federal judges. Although this COLA of roughly 3 percent may seem small and inconsequential, it makes a significant difference in light of the fact that Federal judges earn far less than many, if not most, of their counterparts in the private sector.

In his 2002 year-end report, Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist highlighted his concern that salaries of Federal judges have not kept pace with those of lawyers in private firms and in business. He observed, "Inadequate compensation seriously compromises the judicial independence fostered by life tenure. That low salaries might force judges to return to the private sector rather than stay on the bench risks affecting judicial performance—instead of serving for life, those judges would serve the terms their finances would allow, and they would worry about what awaits them when they return to the private sector." The Chief Justice lamented, "Unless the 108th Congress acts, judges will not even receive the cost-of-living adjustment that nearly every other Federal employee will receive during 2003." He concluded by urging Congress and the President to "take up this issue early in the new year."

Today, Mr. President, the Senate is passing a bill that will allow Federal judges to receive the COLA that other Federal employees are already slated to receive this year. Although the larger issue of minimizing the gap between Federal judicial salaries and private sector salaries still remains, this small step will resolve the salary inequity between Federal judges and other Federal employees. I thank my colleagues for joining Senator LEAHY and me in supporting this bipartisan measure.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is taking up and passing both the Senate and House versions of legislation to authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2003.

Here in the Senate, Senator HATCH and I were joined by Senator DEWINE and Senator SPECTER to cosponsor legislation to authorize an increase in the salaries of Justices and judges of the United States for the present fiscal year. House Judiciary Chairman SENBRENNER was joined by that committee's ranking Democratic member, Congressman CONYERS, and others to introduce identical legislation.

As a member of both the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,